parents, employers, children etc. against the evils of child labour are also being taken up by the Project Societies at the District level. Under the Scheme of Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations, on the recommendation of the concerned State Governments, action oriented projects are taken up for the benefit of working children. Over 50 projects are under implementation under the scheme.

Growth in unemployment

2958. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth in unemployment has been accelerated by the disinvestment in many PSUs;

(b) whether employment generation has caught up with the targeted figures during the last year;

(c) whether a general recession in industrial sector coupled with closure of SSI units, in the face of cheap imports and competition from multinationals have also contributed to the swelling ranks of the unemployed; and

(d) whether Government would formulate a policy by which a part of the disinvestment proceeds are ploughed back to employment generating ventures including core industries and infrastnictural projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) As per the estimates obtained from the labour force surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 1993-94 and 1999-2000 the total employment has gone up. Employment in small scale sector has also shown an increasing trend during 1990-91 to 1999-2000.

According to available information, no retrenchment has taken place so far in any Central PSUs due to disinvestment-It was clearly stated in the Budget speech for the year 2000-2001

that the entire receipt from disinvestment and privatisation will be used for meeting expenditure in social sectors, restructuring of PSUs and retiring public debt. The expenditure in social sectors would create additional employment opportunities.

Engagement of contract Labour

2959. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been growing tendency on the part of industrial houses and even Public Sector Undertakings to engage workmen on 'Contract Labour* basis;

(b) whether according to the Industrial Disputes Act in force, such workmen under 'Contract' labour are eligible for pay scale, perks and terminal benefits enjoyed by the regular workforce on company's/ PSU's direct payroll; and

(c) whether Government have issued any directives to the labour contractors including the security agencies to extend the same facilities to their workmen including pay scales/perks as applicable under the Minimum Wages Act and the ID Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Government is aware that there has been reported increase in engagement of contract labour. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 has been enacted primarily with a view to safeguard the rights and privileges of the contract workers and prevent their exploitation.

The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Central Rules, 1971 provides under Rule 25(2)(v)(a) that the wages and other conditions of service of contract labour shall be the same as that of regular employees if the contract workers perform the same or similar nature of work. In the light of the ruling of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Air India Statutory Corporation *vs.* United Labour Union and Others in December, 1996, the establishments engaging contract labour in a process/work/job are under an obligation to absorb contract labour on regular basis wherever the "Appropriate